

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.(currently amended) A method to form a magnetically pinned layer, comprising:  
  
    providing a layer of antiferromagnetic material having a top surface and an edge that is different from said top surface; and  
  
    depositing a layer of magnetic material, a part of which contacts both said top surface and said edge, thereby forming said magnetically pinned layer.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said layer of magnetic material contacts said edge through overlap of said top surface by said layer of magnetic material.
- 3.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein said layer of magnetic material comprises a pair of ferromagnetic layers separated by, and contacting, an antiferromagnetic coupling layer.
4. (currently amended) A method to form a magnetically pinned layer, comprising:  
  
    providing a pair of antiferromagnetic layers, having coplanar top and bottom surfaces and also having opposing inside edges that are different from said coplanar surfaces, said edges being separated by no more than about 2 microns;

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depositing a layer of magnetic material that is between, and in contact with, said antiferromagnetic layers; and

then magnetizing said layer of magnetic material, thereby forming said magnetically pinned layer.

5. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said layer of magnetic material contacts said inside edges through overlap.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said layer of magnetic material comprises a pair of magnetically antiparallel ferromagnetic layers contacting, and separated by, an antiferromagnetic coupling layer.

7-31. Canceled